

The Sunday School Lesson

John Brayboy, Salem
Missionary Baptist Church

The True Vine (John 15:1-17)

- I. Bearing Fruit (John 15:1-3)
- ii. Bearing Much Fruit (John 15:4-8)
- III. Bearing Lasting Fruit (John 15:9-17)

I. Bearing Fruit (John 15:1-3)
Every Christian was saved for Christ's sake and for the purpose of bearing fruit. In this lesson Jesus tells us how we can bear fruit. Since Israel failed to be the vine to bring the good news of the gospel, Jesus became the true vine. We see Jesus as the true (genuine) vine and the Father (God) as the gardener.

In order for the branches to grow they must be a part of the vine. Jesus said those branches that did not bear fruit, He would cut off. On the other hand, those that bear fruit would be purged to bring more fruit. We ought not to get discouraged when trials come out way. It may be that the Lord is preparing us to bring forth more fruit. Therefore, we ought to count it a blessing when trials come our way.

Jesus was helping His disciples to understand how they could be fruit bearing Christians. The word of God had made them clean, therefore, they would bear fruit.

II. Bearing Much Fruit (John 15:4-8)

In verse 4 Jesus tells His disciples to abide in Him and Him in them. In other words, simply put, we must get into the word and let the word get into us, to be a spirit filled Christian, we must have the word of God. If a child of God is going to bear fruit, he must be in the vine (Jesus) and the vine must be in him. No one can bear fruit apart from Jesus.

Jesus goes on to say that if we are not branches of the vine, we cannot produce. If we are in the vine, the we can produce much fruit. Many Christians have the attitude that I'm saved and going to heaven, so I am not going to worry. Jesus said those kind of people were withered branches and they would be cut off the vine and be burned. I. Corinthians 3:11-15 tells of the judgement of the saints and the testing of their works. Gold, silver, wood, hay

and stubble all will be tested in the fire. If a man's works are burned, then he will be saved as by fire. Christians will lose rewards at the judgement seat of Christ because of not bearing fruit. Many may have gone to an early grave because of not abiding in the vine.

Verses 7 and 8 give us the beauty of abiding in Jesus and Him in us. If we submit completely to the will of God when we make our request to Him, then He will hear and supply our every need. Wouldn't it be great to be in God's divine will and know that when you pray that God will hear and answer your petition? Well, you and I have that opportunity to have that access to the father. If we get into the word and let the word of God get into us, then we will be cleansed, and a vessel fit for Jesus to use. In order for God to get glory out of our lives, we must be spirit filled so that we can walk in the spirit. That takes studying the word of God and allowing it to convict us of our sins and cleanse us. Remember, we are saved, not yet perfected, but we ought to be striving for perfection. It is time for us to get off of the stool of do nothing and get into the word of God and see what God wants to do with our lives.

III. Bearing Lasting Fruit (John 15:9-17)

Jesus tells us how we are loved, it is a divine love that comes from the Father through Jesus to us. No one knows true divine love until they have accepted the love of Jesus. We ought to continue in that love. If your love for Jesus is growing cold then you need to draw close to Him and He will draw close to you. We don't ever need to be warming by the fires of the devil. How do we keep that love from growing cold? Stay in the word and keep the word in us. If we meditate upon God's word, we will have that abiding love flowing in and through us.

Jesus tells us that we will have joy and that our joy will be full, if we abide in Him and Him in us. What we need to do is let Jesus have all of us. When we do that we will love one another. When the love of God flows in our heart, then we will be obedient to the Lord. There is joy in our hearts when we know that we have pleased Jesus.

Agape love (God love) is sacrificial and self giving. That is the kind of love that Jesus wants us to have. Jesus calls His disciples friends and not servants. Servants do what they are told. Friends share what they know with each other. Jesus has shared with us through His word everything we need to know to be His disciples. What the Father has shared with Jesus. He has shared with us.

Jesus reminds us that we did not choose Him, but we were chosen of

Him. We had nothing to do with our salvation, it is the gift of God. So we are to bear fruit and if we ask anything of the Father in Jesus' name, we can receive. Jesus commands us to love one another. Let the world see the love of God in us.
God bless you. Pray for us



Cookie's Corner

It is not our job to conform to society. It our place to live our life in respect to God and not to mortal man. We should not live by what man thinks, because "what man thinks will not get you into heaven". God gave man the right to rule over the animals and not over his fellow man. That is why God gives us "free will". It is our choice whether or not to conform to "society". If we do not conform folks think that we are "crazy". But the truth is the "one's that don't think that they have the problems, are indeed the one's that need the help". There are too many people in this world that tell us "what we should do and what we are suppose to do". In other words "You can't soar like an eagle when you are around a BUNCH OF TURKEYS!"

When there are too many leaders a id not enough Indians. "You cannot get anything accomplished or go"

You can always say "My name is Bennet and I ain't in it"

People have a mind. I just wish that they would use it.

Has anyone told you that "they love you today"? well I do

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Cong. McIntyre Announces \$400,000 HUD Grant for Fayetteville State University

Washington, D.C. -- Seventh District Congressman Mike McIntyre announced today that Fayetteville State University (FSU) will receive a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congressman McIntyre, who joined FSU Chancellor Willis McLeod at the announcement ceremony in Washington, said "Fayetteville State is an outstanding school that provides many opportunities for the students it serves. These funds will allow FSU to promote community economic development by creating and financing locally-owned and operated small businesses. With this infusion of capital, FSU can leverage other private and public resources to provide job opportunities and the revitalization of FSU neighborhoods. I applaud the efforts of Chancellor McLeod and others at FSU in their work on this grant. In addition, I stand ready to continue

working with them to improve not only our educational system, but also the neighborhoods to which their students must look for jobs and opportunities."

Specifically, the FSU grant will focus on job creation by providing skill training to youth and other residents of the community, conducting a micro-enterprise feasibility study, sponsoring and developing a small business incubator, creating a community based economic development non-profit organization to own and manage the incubator, and creating a program of small business consulting, seminars, and micro-enterprise technical and financial support for the users of the incubator and the residents of the Murchison Road-FSU Corridor.

President Clinton has designated this week as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, to recognize the school's long record of achievement.

Pembroke Kiwanis

Lt. Gov. George Holden. Class of 1970 at UNCP installed the new officers of the Pembroke Kiwanis Club for the year of 1997-98. They are: President-Brian Brooks, vice president or president-elect George Kenworthy, secretary-Todd Jones and Treasurer- Albert Hunt who has served a remarkable 35 years.

Lt. Gov. Holden is the Regional Consultant for the Dept. of Health and Human Services working with the Youth Division. He cited the worldwide iodine program to eradicate the iodine deficiency in so many children. Lt. Gov. Holden has been the President of the Fayetteville Kiwanis Club this past year. He played baseball for the Braves under Coach Pennington and majored in physical education. I can recall him in my gymnastic classes and other classes Golly, that was 27 years ago.

We have enjoyed many years of being served the best meals under Mrs. Lola Revels and thanked her with a gift of appreciation and Mrs. Sharon Locklear, our waitress. We will miss them. Mrs. Revels' health has not been up to par as of late.

We now will be meeting at the Jade Gardens, a splendid Chinese Restaurant on Third Street, beginning next Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Ray Lowry was voted the Outstanding Kiwanian of the Year. He did a fine job as fund raising chairman for the 1996-97 year.

Program-Furnie Lambert, Song leader-Ed Teets, Invocation-Garth Locklear, reporter-Ken Johnson.

NET NEWS

Shop Till You Drop...

Without Looking for a Parking Space

Shopping on the Internet has helped consumers become more informed than ever. Through the home computer, people are purchasing everything from flowers to life insurance. The result? Better prices and informed consumers. One thing the Internet and Internet services do well is deliver information. Today, you can read about and compare four or five mortgage companies online without spending hours with a salesperson. Prodigy Internet has calculators that help determine mortgage rates and down payments. Other calculators (more than 40 in all) run numbers on car leasing, insurance rates, investments, and home improvements loans. Informed consumers then purchase online, by phone or in person.

When purchasing online, there are hundreds of Internet shopping malls. Look for brand names, color pictures of products, good selection, and, of course, great prices. Consumers are using new Internet technologies to search online shopping areas by item. For instance, at <http://www.shopnet.prodigy.com>, shoppers enter "Women's shirts" and a long list of merchandise from JCPenney to Land's End appears complete with color photos, sizes and prices. Registered shoppers enjoy the same credit card security on well-branded Web sites as they do in traditional department stores. Be sure to look for products with a money back guaranteed.

The key benefit to shopping online is that the shopper can go directly to the items they are looking for without thumbing through a catalogue or waiting for the item to appear on their shopping TV channel. Last-minute shoppers particularly appreciate overnight delivery service found on most sites.

The next time you're ready to fill a shopping bag, reach for your computer. Whether you're banking online or sending a cheese basket to your aunt, shopping on the Internet is a "mall-velous" experience. For more information, call 1-800-PRODIGY or visit www.prodigy.com

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Please pray for us, and we'll pray for you.
We need your prayers always.
God bless each and every one of you.